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SHAFTESBURY,
MAY 10th, 1926.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

As I succeeded Dr. H. U. Gould as Medical Officer of Health for the District in the middle of November, this Report deals almost entirely with work done by Dr Gould.

The number of births is 10 per cent. less than last year, and the number of deaths is 20 per cent. more than last year, resulting in a loss to the District of 40 inhabitants. There was an excess of 13 immigrants over emigrants, so that the net decrease in population amounts to 27

Infantile mortality was less than in the last few years, and of the deaths 50 per cent. were due to congenital causes.

There is still a considerable amount of over-crowding throughout the District on account of the general shortage of Houses. The Houses generally are old and in many cases damp, but until new Houses are erected in sufficient numbers, no drastic action can be taken with regard to many of the unsatisfactory dwellings.

There were no Closing Orders made during the year, but 18 Houses have been erected by privaet enterprise and 36 are in course of erection by the Council.

Area. The area of the District is 42,574 Acres, including 239 Acres of Water.

Population. The estimated population is 9573 as compared with 9660 in 1924 and 9591 in 1923. The number of houses is about 2600, giving an average of 3.68 persons per house.

Occupation. The chief occupation is Farming, especially Dairy Farming, with several Factories in the northern part of the District dealing with artificial Milk products.

Water Supply. The Water Supply is mainly from streams and wells. Supplies are still deficient in East and West Orchard and in Stour Row. During the past five years new supplies have been provided at Ashmore, East Stour, Buckhorn Weston, and at Kington Magna the private water supply has been taken over by the Council. The following Districts have now water led to the houses :—
Ashmore, Gillingham, Fontmell Magna, East Stour, Stour Provost, Bourton Village, Motcombe, Kington Magna, Buckhorn Weston and part of Cann.

Rivers and Streams. The River Stour flows southwards through the district, receiving tributaries on its way.

Drainage and Sewerage. Farm drainage and Sewerage generally flows into the smaller streams, and some of the sewerage flows directly into the River Stour. A new extension of the Sewerage Scheme at Gillingham has been proposed, but the only other area which is provided with Sewers is Enmore Green, with the exception of sewers at Houses at Bourton.

Scavenging. During the past five years new scavenging arrangements have been made at Gillingham, but there are no public scavenging arrangements elsewhere in the District.

Closet Accommodation.—

Privy Pits	...	...	1600
Pail Closets	...	...	900
Water Closets	...	..	600

Schools. Administered by the County Council, but several visits were paid to the Schools during the epidemic of Measles and Mumps, on account of the probability of having to close the Schools for a period.

Maternity and Child Welfare. Also administered by the County Authorities, but the problem of an efficient service is rendered difficult by the scattered nature of the District.

Food. A considerable number of visits have been paid to examine meat of doubtful quality, especially to the Bacon Factories at Gillingham and Motcombe.

Milk Supply. The supply of Milk in the District is considerable and of excellent quality, but in some cases a fuller understanding of hygienic principles with regard to handling the Milk is necessary.

Slaughter Houses. 12 of these are registered, 8 being licensed.

Infectious Diseases. The following cases have been notified :—

	1925.	1924.	1923.	1922.
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	12
Diptheria ...	14	4	2	1
Erysipelas ...	1	2	3	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	1	0	1
Anterior Polio Myelitis	0	1	1	0

	1925.	1924.	1923.	1922.
Pneumonia ...	16	5	5	10
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0	1
Opthalimia Neonatrum	0	0	1	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	9	12	8	10
,, (other forms)	1	3	0	6

Isolation Hospital. During the last quarter of the year an outbreak of Diptheria necessitated the opening of the Isolation Hospital, and 12 cases were treated there. The Hospital was closed again in November, and there are 12 beds available.

Disinfection of Infected Premises. Carried out by the Sanitary Officer by means of Formalin Fumigation.

Bacteriological Examination. Carried out by the Clinical Research Association, London.

Venereal Desease Practically absent in the District.

Small Pox. The District depends on County arrangements, but Small Pox has been unknown in the District for nearly 20 years.

Tuberculosis. Treatment of cases notified is carried out under the County Medical Officer's Scheme.

Bye-Laws. None

Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate.

	1925.	1924.	1923.	1922.
Births Registered	145	161	184	187
Males (4 illegitimate)	73	74	85	106
Females (5 ,,)	72	87	99	81
Making a Birth Rate per 1000 of	15.14	16.66	19.18	19.66

Death Rate.

	1925.	1924.	1923.	1922.	1921.
Deaths Registered	128	104	113	118	114
Males	69	59	50	55	50
Females	59	45	63	63	63

One death was that of an illegitimate female child.

Death Rate	13.40	10.76	11.78	12.40	11.40

as compared with a Death-Rate for the whole County of 12.2 of the total population.

Infantile Mortality. There were 6 deaths among the children under 1 year old, making a Death Rate of 41.4 per 1000 births as compared with 75 of the whole Country, and

1924.	1923.	1922.	1921.
60.00	73.8	74.87	42.55

Three of these deaths (1 male and 2 females) were due to congenital debility.

Chief Causes of Death.

	1925.	1924.	1923.	1922.	1921.
Arterio-sclerosis	20	10	15	18	27
Heart Disease	18	12	17	13	15
Cancer	12	13	13	11	11
Influenza	6	10	8	10	5
Tuberculosis (lungs)	4	2	9	8	3
,, (other forms)	0	1			
Congenital Debility	3	6	10	8	3
Bronchitis	7	8	7	6	6
Nephritis	4	4	0	5	4
Cerebral Hæmorhage	7	9	5	5	5
Pneumonia	8	1	3		
Appendicitis	1				
Encephalitis Lethargica	1				

No deaths occurred from Meningocele Meningitis or from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).

Sanitary Inspector's Statement.

1. *Inspection.*
   1. Total number of houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 83
   2. Number of Houses found to be unfit for human habitation 0
   3. Number of Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 7

2. *Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.*
   Number of Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority ... 7

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*
   (A) 1. Number of Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs and defects to be remedied 9
   2. Number of Houses rendered fit after service of formal notice.
      (a) By Owners 8
      (b) By Local Authority ... 0

(B) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15, of Housing Acts, 1925 :—

1.	Number of representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders ...	Nil.
2.	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Housing Orders were made ...	Nil.
3.	Number of Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Houses having been rendered fit	Nil.
4.	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
5.	Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil.

Nuisances Found, 14.

Due to	(a) Defective Drains	3
	(b) ,, Closets	3
	(c) General Dilapidations...	7
	(d) Water Supply	1

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Number of Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Milksellers on Register ...	160
Number of Cowsheds in the District	266
Number inspected during 1925	45
Number of inspections during 1925	120
Number of Notices served	13
Number complied with	6

Slaughter Houses.

Number Registered	12
Number Licensed	8
Number inspected during 1925	12
Number of Inspections	30
Number of Notices served	0

County Medical Officer's Report.

Administration of Sale of Food and Drugs' Act.

The following is a statement of the Samples taken during 1925 :—

Barley	1	Medicated Lozenges	1
Boric Acid	1	Margarine	1
Cornflour	1	Potted Meat	1
Fish Paste	1	Milk	2
Potted Fish	1	Sponge Cake (adulterated)	1
Fruit (tinned)	1	Sugar	1
Jam	1	Tapioca	1
Lard	1		

Adulterated Sample.

Sponge Cake.—Vendor cautioned.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

David Arnott, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health (Shaftesbury R.D.C.)